

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended) A bonding method of a ceramic honeycomb structure formed by bundling a plurality of porous honeycomb segments through adhesive layers, where the porous honeycomb segments are provided with numerous circulation holes defined by partition walls and said circulation holes penetrated in an axial direction,

wherein the respective pieces of the porous honeycomb segments are stacked while interposing the adhesive layers between respective adhered surfaces, ~~and~~

the porous honeycomb segments are bonded together by performing main pressurization on the whole through the porous honeycomb segments located on an outermost layer after stacking a predetermined number of ~~pieces~~ pieces,

the main pressurization is performed by use of pressing jigs, wherein said jigs include pressing ribs in a number equivalent to the number of porous honeycomb segments located on the outermost layer of the honeycomb structure, and

wherein the pressing ribs are provided on a pressing surface of the pressing jig so as to abut on approximate centers of the surfaces of the porous honeycomb segments on the outermost layer of the honeycomb structure.

2. (Original) The bonding method of a ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 1,

wherein the respective porous honeycomb segments are subjected to preliminary pressurization at the time of stacking by weaker pressure than the main pressurization.

3. (Original) The bonding method of a ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 2,

wherein the preliminary pressurization is performed at pressure equal to or below 0.5 kgf/cm².